



From Over the Hill

—By Ed W1EJ

Well, we made it through the year; VOMARC survived the leadership of an accidental President. We had a successful Ham Fest, a great Field Day, and nice group picnic at Sugarloaf Park with POTA activation a Foxhunt and great food. Some of us sought bargains at other clubs Hamfests in Loomis, and Lincoln, and even on a trip to the general electronics flea market at West Valley College in Saratoga. Many of our members are enjoying the Solar Cycle 25 boost to HF propagation, especially the DX chasers and contesters. Others are doing many POTA activations and POTA hunting; and the number of SOTA activators has doubled, (thanks Dave). What I am getting at is that our hobby has many facets that we enjoy individually but some are even more fun when done together. Our club has grown a little over the past year, and more members are taking part in club activities, so let's keep it going.

The club election has concluded, the results will be published in the newsletter. The swearing in (or swearing at) will take place at the meeting/Christmas Party Tuesday December 17th at Mary's Pizza. For those who can't attend I wish

you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Speaking of the new year, it looks like I am in for another term as President. The area that I need help in most is monthly programs for the meetings. Please make suggestions for topics or a group activity, and perhaps doing a show and tell about some topic or idea that you can share with the group.

NEXT MEETING

Christmas Party

Tue, **December 17, 2024** at Mary's Pizza

Topic: **Swearing In**

Minutes of the November 20, 2024 Online Meeting

ATTENDANCE: Members Online: W1EJ (Ed), KD6FIL (Dave), WA6CRB (Dan), N7PIB (Sanford), K6YD (Kevin), N6LY (Liz), W6MOM (Carla), NJ6E (Stan), KB6CLV (Simon), WB6TMH (Mike), W6XDX (John), WD6BOR (Darrel), KO6DXF (Don), N7TSQ (Joe), KE6HID (Andrew).

Adopt meeting minutes as published in newsletter? Motion Made and Seconded. Minutes approved as submitted.

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER, Eileen, KG6QNT- Absent

ACS – Moe, KI6JNU-KD6FIL Report- Sonoma Valley Auxiliary Communications Service meets at 7:30 PM on every Monday on the 146.205 repeater. The digipeater on Sonoma Mtn is down temporarily for repairs.

VE LIASON- Elizabeth, N6LY-Next test session will be in January. – for POTA- will be activating Alcatraz on December 6.

RADIO OFFICER- Mike, WB6TMH- Has a Yaesu FT757 with issues on the bench. KB6CLV is interested in it for parts if it is not repairable.
TRUSTEE- Darrel, WD6BOR- Will be net control for December.

SECRETARY/TREASURER- Dave, KD6FIL-\$3498 in the bank. KA5WSS will send over PayPal account information (Thanks)

VICE PRESIDENT- Darrel, WD6BOR- Nothing to report

PRESIDENT- Ed, W1EJ- Glad he knew the storm was coming and that this is a Zoom meeting. It is not a time to be out driving.

OLD BUSINESS

Christmas Party- Scheduled for December 17 at 6 PM at the Mary's Pizza in Boyes Hot Springs.

QSL Card- Ed will send out the draft QSL card that KD6FIL hacked together.

NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested that the club make a \$200 donation to FISH in the Sonoma Valley. A motion was made by W6XDX and seconded by KE6HID. Motion was approved by vote.

Election Process- Will be done through Ham Club Online. Be on the lookout for the email notice.

NOMINATIONS

President- W1EJ was nominated and accepted the nomination

Vice President- KO6DXF was nominated and accepted the nomination

SECRETARY/TREASURER-KD6FIL was nominated and accepted the nomination

VE Liaison- N6LY was nominated and accepted the nomination

Radio Officer- WB6TMH was nominated and accepted the nomination

Station Trustee- WD6BOR was nominated and accepted the nomination

Newsletter- KG6QNT was nominated and accepted the nomination (KD6FIL- We talked before the meeting and Eileen said she would continue doing the newsletter.)

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Our next testing session will be on Saturday, January 25, 2025. Start off the new year by becoming a licensed HAM Radio operator or upgrading your license to enhance your radio experience.

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

When: Saturday, January 25

Time: 10:00 AM

Reservations required.

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm@gmail.com

Location: Sonoma Police Department EOC, Sonoma CA 95476

Candidate Requirements

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- FCC Registration Number
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Exam fee is \$15.00, Under 18 is \$5.00

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year of membership in the club, regardless of whether you

pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

Parks on the Air Fun

—By Liz, N6LY

On December 6th, Kevin (K6YD) and I (N6LY) completed our 4th Annual POTA Alcatraz Island activation. It was a beautiful, sunny day on the Island. We couldn't have asked for better weather, seeing how it was December.

We transmitted from 9:10 AM-2:30 PM, for about 5 1/2 hours. Liz got 440 QSOs and Kevin got 21. He only CQ'd when I needed a break. Our contacts covered 46 US states and Puerto Rico, 9 Canadian Provinces, and 5 countries (France, Argentina, Mexico, Australia, and Japan).

Our set-up was an Alpha HF Moto Antenna with a 13' Mil Whip, on a tripod and Faraday Cloth and Yaesu FT-891.

We transmitted on all bands 40M- 6M, plus 2M Simplex. Our 2M simplex contacts were to Dave (KD6FIL) and Ed (W1EJ), who were over on Angel Island.

It was a very busy and fun day on the radio.



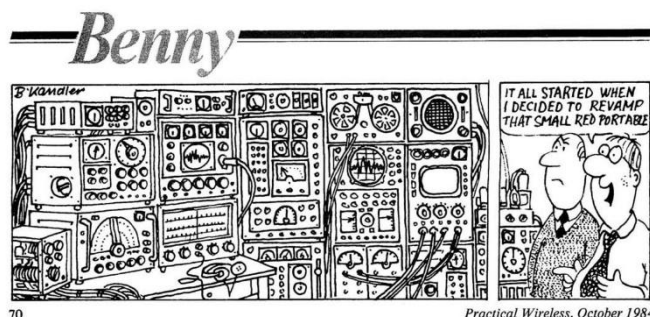
Jack London SP POTA Activation

On Black Friday I avoided the mad crowds and headed to Jack London State Historic Park for a [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) activation. Using the same setup as I used at the club picnic a couple of months ago, I was able to set up in just a few minutes with the radio and battery sitting in my car. I strung the end-fed wire antenna along some low tree limbs. I managed to work 53 QSOs across all five bands between 20M and 10M.



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Ham Humor



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

You can listen to "Earth Music" by building a [simple VLF receiver](#) that can pick up RF emissions from lightning strikes.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Summit Adventures with Ed and Dave, Mount Caroline Livermore, Angel Island, W6/CC-075

—By Dave KD6FIL

W1EJ and I ventured out on another summit adventure on Friday, December 6. This was a very civilized adventure that started at 8:30 AM at Ed's house in Petaluma. From there we headed south on 101 to catch the Angel Island Ferry in Tiburon at 10 AM. Little did we know what we were in for. On there ferry there were 60 4th graders on a field trip to Angel Island. It was a loud ride over to the island but it only takes 15 minutes, so we survived. The weather was great and we have to thank N6LY and K6YD for selecting the date. N6LY and K6YD were activating Alcatraz National Historic Site for parks on the air and we wanted to make a park to park contact from Angel Island. Upon landing we ask a ranger what was the fastest trail to the summit and she said it was the Ridge Trail. So we headed up the Ridge Trail. They left out that it starts out with about a ¼ mile of stairs. After making it up the stairs it was a nice trail to the summit. It took just over an hour with a 780 foot elevation gain. The view from the summit was amazing with three bridges, Treasure Island, Alcatraz and the San Fransico skyline. We didn't have much time to sight see because we needed to catch the 2 PM ferry back to Tiburon on take the ferry to San Fransico later and Uber back to Tiburon. We set up out antennas and texted N6LY and K6YD to coordinate a 2 meter contact. While we waited for them, we started operating on HF. I heard N7TSQ in Agua Caliente on 2m but he couldn't hear me. Then K6YD came up on 2m and Ed and I both logged K6YD and N6LY. We tried 70cm after that, but it did not work. Back to HF. I was using my new FX-4CR, so I tried 40m SSB at 20 watts and made a few contacts,

including N7TSQ. Then 20M SSB and made a few more contacts. Then I started running out of time to make the 10 contacts required to count as a park activation so I moved to 10m FT8 and made the final HF contacts. All this time Ed was operating at 5 watts on his KX2 because he forgot his external battery cable. The KX2 only can operate at 5 watts on the internal battery (which was not fully charged to start with), but Ed cranked out 28 contacts on CW. At 12:45 we started breaking down the antennas. We were packed up and ready to head down the hill when I made one last call on 2m and contacted a mobile station on the Golden Gate Bridge. Then it was back down the hill to catch the ferry home. We made it back in time to enjoy the ferry ride back to Tiburon with the 4th graders. We even got serenaded by 2 young ladies that put their own lyrics to Santa Claus is Coming to Town. It was another successful adventure.



The Signal

If you have Netflix, you can check out a German miniseries called The Signal. The premise involves someone on the International Space Station receiving a message from outer space and the repercussions of that.

There are some gaping holes in the science underpinning it all. If you watch, you'll know. But I

bring it up because Amateur radios play a part in the drama, though not Amateur Radio.

The show makes use of a Icom IC-251E 2M multi-mode radio on Earth. It's consistently tuned to 145.6 MHz. However, they never reference Amateur Radio at all. Instead they refer to some old Russian space frequency no longer in use.

Onboard ISS the main character Astronaut makes use of an HT of unknown origin. The problem? Nothing is ever plugged into its antenna connector!

Nevertheless, it's kind of a fun watch.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Election Results

Officers,

The election is over. I'm not sure how much you can see in HamClubOnline, so here are the results.

President

- 1. Ed Jacobson, W1EJ (31 votes, 91.2%)
- 0. Abstain (1 vote, 2.9%)

WRITE-INS:

- "andrew" (1 vote, 2.9%)
- "M. MOUSE" (1 vote, 2.9%)

Vice President

- 1. Don Garnett, KO6DXF (31 votes, 91.2%)
- 0. Abstain (2 votes, 5.9%)

WRITE-INS:

- "andrew" (1 vote, 2.9%)

Secretary Treasurer

- 1. Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL (32 votes, 94.1%)
- 0. Abstain (1 vote, 2.9%)

WRITE-INS:

- "andrew" (1 vote, 2.9%)

VE Liaison

- 1. Elizabeth Morris-Stephens, N6LY (33 votes, 97.1%)
- 0. Abstain (0 votes, 0.0%)

WRITE-INS:

- "andrew" (1 vote, 2.9%)

Radio Officer

- 1. Mike Miller, WB6TMH (31 votes, 91.2%)
- 0. Abstain (2 votes, 5.9%)

WRITE-INS:

- "andrew" (1 vote, 2.9%)

Newsletter Editor

- 1. Eileen Adams, KG6QNT (32 votes, 94.1%)
- 0. Abstain (1 vote, 2.9%)

WRITE-INS:

- "andrew" (1 vote, 2.9%)

Station Trustee

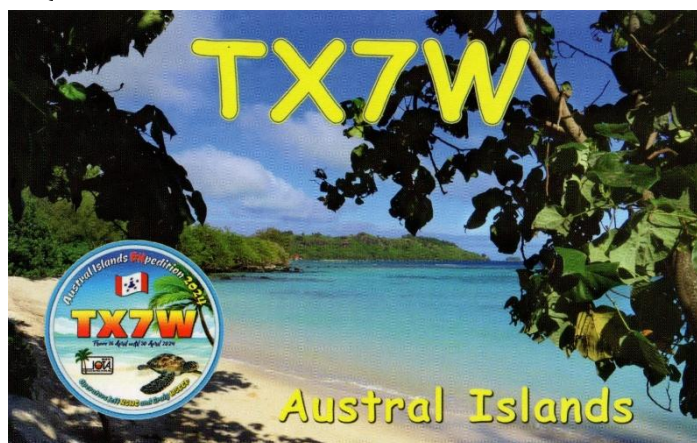
- 1. Darrel Jones, WD6BOR (32 votes, 94.1%)
- 0. Abstain (1 vote, 2.9%)

WRITE-INS:

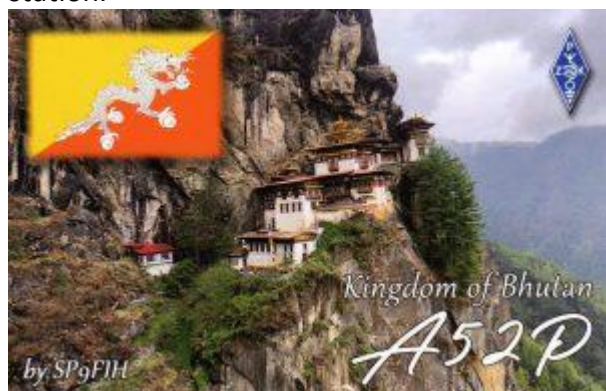
- "andrew" (1 vote, 2.9%)

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

QSL Card Inbox



I worked the Austral Islands recently, so this was not an All Time New One (ATNO) for me. But this card from [TX7W](#) confirmed FT4 QSOs on 17M, 15M and 10M. All of these were made using my modest home station.



I received not one, but two QSL cards for stations in Bhutan, an All Time New One (ATNO) for me. This card from [A52P](#) confirms FT8 contacts on both the 15M and 20M bands.



What is it with ATNOs and two cards in recent months? I received this QSL Card for contacts with [TT8RR](#) and [TT8XX](#) in Chad. They confirm QSOs using CW, SSB and FT8 on the 15M, 12M and 10M bands.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 28 EDITION 12

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – President

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR—Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS — Webmeister

“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—Or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

| | Name | Call |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| JANUARY | MOE | KI6JNU |
| FEBRUARY | SCOTT | KJ6QIQ |
| MARCH | SCOTT | KJ6QIQ |
| APRIL | JIM | K6UUW |
| MAY | DICK | KF6FZM |
| JUNE | MOE | KI6JNU |
| JULY | | |
| AUGUST | BILL | KJ6EIG |
| SEPTEMBER | SAM | W5LTP |
| OCTOBER | DICK | KF6FZM |
| NOVEMBER | MIKE | WB6TMH |
| DECEMBER | DARREL | WD6BOR |

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

| | Name | Call |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| JANUARY | ROBERT | KA5WSS |
| FEBRUARY | DARREL | WD6BOR |
| MARCH | MOE | KI6JNU |
| APRIL | DAVE | KD6FIL |
| MAY | ED | W1EJ |
| JUNE | FRANK | KG6N |
| JULY | ED | W1EJ |
| AUGUST | CARL | N6TTV |
| SEPTEMBER | ED | W1EJ |
| OCTOBER | JOHN | W8EWL |
| NOVEMBER | MIKE | WB6TMH |
| DECEMBER | DARREL | WD6BOR |

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2024

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.